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Letter from Floride Calhoun to Anna Clemson, 1859 January 4

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2
Mi Casa

~~January 4~~ th 1859

My dearest child

God has laid his hand upon you, and sorely afflicted you, but recollect whom the Lord, loveth he chan-
-geth, and try as soon as possible, to give him up cheerfully, to her father, in Heaven, who gave her to you, and has thought proper to take her to himself, during our infancy, before she knew sin, and what a happy thought, that she is now one of the Angel band, view her as such, and seek earnestly, that pearl of great price Religion, so that you may be prepared to meet your dear little Angel in Heaven, where I sincerely trust we all shall meet in due time, and may it please Almighty God, to bless this severe affliction to you and yours, is my most earnest

prayer. I will ante - pen lines from our
church prayer book, which I think appropriate.

The gentle Saviour calls

our children to his breast;

He folds them to his gracious arms,

Himself declares them blest.

2 "Let them approach," he cries,

"Nor fear their humble claim;

The heirs of heaven are such as these,

For such as these I came."

3 Gladly we bring, then, Lord,

Devoting them to thee,

Imploving, that, as we are thine

Thine may our offspring be.

God in my dearest child, that children
are born to happiness, and how kind in
God, to take the youngest, of your children
to himself, before it knew sin, and leave
the two, who have known sin, in order
they may be prepared for death, and it
now devolves on you, their parents, to teach
them the way to heaven. Take them often
to the house of God. Read the Scriptures to

them, and let them read themselves, and if they cannot comprehend sufficiently, let them converse with ministers of the gospel, who can explain all things plainly to them.

You must try and get Mr. Benson to leave home if it is but for a short time, or he will get distracted, from the tone of his letters, his mind must be in an awful state. You had better sell your place at once and come to me, I tell you this as he says he will never be satisfied to live at the place now, every thing reminds him so much of the lost one. I do not know your wishes on the subject, so do not advise what he says about selling the place to him, or will not until you say it is your wish to sell. I think if he would converse freely with some minister, and have some consoling books put into his hands to read, it would at once relieve his mind.

I have a proposition to make to you when you come on, which I think will be advantageous, to all of us, and which I think you ought to accede to, but you must come here before I can reveal it to you, and the sooner you come the better for you all, and in the end you will save what it will

ask you to come on. If I could get from Mr. Brall, what
is due me, I could help you along, but as it is, I will
be just able to make each cent must every year, having
my place to pay for out of my interest.

I sent the Ambrotype likeness of our dear little Caroline,
through Mr. Dodge a few days since, to be put in the
Express at Columbus, and paid all on it, directing to Jackson
and brothers, as requested, and hope you will get it safe.
Kate, and Mr. Pike, join me in love to all, and I conclude
with wishing you all, a happy New Year, and may those
to come, be more prosperous, and no more deaths in the family,
is the sincere prayer of your devoted brother.

Florida Bathorn.